Official Publication of the Paper Money Collectors of Michigan

# The Ray Hicker

**VOLUME XXX, NUMBER 3** 

JULY - OCTOBER, 1995



## OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE PAPER MONEY COLLECTORS OF MICHIGAN

Volume XXX Jul-Spt 1995

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· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
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#### Michigan Board Members

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CLOSING DATES FOR COPY AND ADS -- The 15th of January, April, July and October. Address mail to the EDITOR.

1995 Membership dues, if not paid, are due now. Please remit promptly and direct all dues and business correspondence concerning PMCM to: Robert Thiel, PO Box 163, Victor NY 14565.

ADVERTISING	1 ISSUE	4 ISSUES
BACK COVER	\$30.00	\$27.00 Each
INSIDE COVERS	27.00	24.50 "
FULL PAGE	22.50	20.00 "
1/2 PAGE	12.00	10.00 "
1/4 PAGE	6.50	5.00 "
1/8 PAGE	3.50	2.75 "

TREASURER'S REPORT BY ROBERT THIEL # 1686

FIDELIT	TY INVESTMENTS							
3-15-95	Balance 368.965 Sha	res @ 31.5	9 11,655.60					
Purchas	Purchased 44.456 shares @ 33.74 1,500.00							
Reinves	Reinvested 3.180 shares @ 33.80 107.49							
6-14-95	Ending Value 416.603	shares						
@ 34.25			14,268.65					
SAVINGS	ACCOUNT							
5-1-95	Balance		989.73					
	Interest	12.08						
	Dues	232.00						
	AD	27.00						
			1,260.81					
	Bob Thief Stamps	24.00	·					
	Added cost of Ap-Jun							
	Rag Picker	334.24						
	Jul-Sept Rag Picker							
9-2-95	Balance Rochester Con		rings					
		4	402.57					

12 Members did not pay their 1995 Dues.

DECEASED: None reported this month NEW MEMBERS/REINSTATEMENTS

AT.			
Name	Location	#	Sponsor
Larry Simmons	Lockport, NY	3102	J.Stone
Glen Jorde re-ins.	Devils Lake, ND	1164	Brandimore
Joseph DeMeo	Valley Frg PA	3103	Walcutt
Gregory Meyers	W Brdgwater NJ	3104	Walcutt
J C Ballentine	Waycross, GA	3105	Walcutt
John Hickman	Des Moines, IA	3106	Walcutt
Robert W Hean	Harrngtn Pk, NJ	3107	Walcutt
R M Waltz	Limerick, PA	3108	Walcutt
Jim Dale	Syracuse, NY	3109	Brandimore
Alvin Macomber	Alxndia, VA	3110	S. Taylor
Ron Yeager	Bartlett,TN	3111	Walcutt
Frank Howard	Macon, GA	3112	Walcutt
Tim Larsen	Salt Lk C UT	3113	Brandimore
John March	Buchanan, MI	653	Brandimore
Steve Westerman	Kansas City MO	3114 1	Mikolajczyk
John Schwartz	New Canaan, CT	1111	Brandimore
Brad Vautrinot	N Quincy, MA	3115	Brandimore
Eugene C. Henige	Davison, MI	3116	Brandimore
Edwin A. Richt	Louisville, K	Y 184	12 B. Thiel

EDITOR'S NOTES: We have two great feature articles this month, one on Fractional Currency and part three of our National Currency Series.

OUR COVER THIS MONTH: A Beautiful Doug Walcutt photo of a First Charter \$500 Back showing the Surrender of General Burgoyne, with the Massachusetts State Seal, courtesy of Ray Waltz. These First Charter engravings are too beatiful to keep in the dark. We should be using them on new currency issues, as we did the Signing of the Declaration of Independence on the back of the current Two dollar bill. As we are reportedly looking into new anti-counterfeiting designs, lets bring back our history to our paper currency.

#### MEMPHIS REPORT, Bill Brandimore

Dr. Wallace Lee, our esteemed President will probably also report on Memphis, but I have so much fun when I get down there, that I have to put my oar in the water, as well.

The weather this year was surprising, in the 80's and not as humid as in past times. It was warmer

in Wisconsin on my return home Sunday night.

The dinners were as usual, GREAT. We ate at the Pier, one of our favorites for peel and eat shrimp and sea food in general, and naturally we got a steak at the Butcher Block. Member Pat Barnes, of Lansing got us to try a new one, Cafe Reaux, and it was great, Cajun style! I had the Jambalaya. (I think I'm beginning to sound like Cliff Mishler).

Old friends were there as well, we got to visit with a lot of friends. We also took in the "Tombs of China" display that was available in the Convention Arena. Fabulous bronze work and artifacts from the tombs of Emperors and Generals and other high officials. One tomb, discovered and reported on in National Geographic only about 10 years ago had 8,000 life size Terra Cotta soldiers guarding the tomb. All were individual, with different facial features and dress. Every year the City of Memphis has a major display and they're well worth taking in.

PAPER MONEY, you ask? Yes, there was plenty of that as well, along with great exhibits coordinated by Martin Delger. The exhibits get better and better with each succeeding year. Once again, we received beautiful plaques for our efforts as exhibitors.

Our PMCM Meeting was held Saturday afternoon and was well attended. Present were Larry Jenkins, Warren, MI; Steve Edelsor, Brooklyn, NY; Stephen Tagler, Dover, DEL; Ray Ellenbogen, Columbus, OH; Nancy Wilson, Milwaukee, WI; Ron Yeager, Bartlett, TN; Joseph Mikolajczyk, Parchment, MI; John Nammensma, Kentwood, MI; Al Vonk, Jenison, MI; Frank Clark, Dallas, TX; Nathan Solditz, Greenville, MS; Lawrence O'Neal, Nashville, TN;

Gary McNeal, Houston, TX; Jim Hodgson, Joliet, IL; John Wilson, Milwaukee, WI; David Harper (Bank Note Reporter), Iola, WI; Bob Thiel, Victor, NY; Doug Murray, Portage, MI; Alvin McComber, Alexandria, VA; Doug Walcutt, Carmel, NY; and Yours Truly. If I spelled anyone's name wrong, you've yourself to blame, re: penmanship.

We have a healthy balance in our account and finances are well in order. We are spending more per magazine because we're using more photos, printing more copies with increasing membership and a higher number of pages. I estimate that we will probably average nearer to \$700 per issue now, than the \$500 cost per issue a while back( larger magazines, more pictures, higher mailing costs and more copies printed). We also got the good news that we will get to co-sponsor the MSNS Fall Show again in three years. This is a great source of revenue and keeps our dues down.

Doug Walcutt gave a talk on his continuing series on National Banknotes (See this issue for part #3) and a lengthy discussion ensued on what members are discovering relative to WEB notes, scarce blocks, stars, etc. One group discovered a yet unreported (in circulation) block in an Illinois town. I would love to feature a regular column on Small Size Happenings...is there someone out there who would like to share the inside dope with our readers. The potential for rare or scarce blocks will escalate now that we have notes going every which way, relative to their printed District Number and the actual delivery site of the notes.

We'll meet again at Thanksgiving and hope to get another turnout like Memphis...21 people at the meeting. While you're at it sign up a new member...we're crowding 300, as we issued approximately 275 Rag Pickers and picked up at least 10 new members at Memphis...a lot of discussion about Doug Walcutt's series. Let's get everyone talking about YOUR paper money collecting interests...write an article...win a prize!



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: The ANA is in Anaheim, CA this year, August 16-20 and should be a great show in the Magic Land setting of Disney and Knot's Berry Farm along with other great sight seeing attractions. I'm sure everyone going to the ANA will be kept busy with any spare time they might have. The ANA is the high point of the year and all the collectors look forward to that show to spend their numismatic savings for seldom seen little jewels that they desire.

Slabbed coins are becoming more the norm now for any rare ones and also for all the expensive ones. If they're not slabbed, you can bet there's something wrong with the coin. Raw coins will sell for less money. I received four different auction catalogs for the ANA: Heritage, Superior, Bowers and Marena and Mac Cauley-Soellman (half cents and large cents). Nearly all for coins, but there is a consignment from Harvey's of Lake Tahoe selling Nevada Nationals that will whet the appetite of collectors in the West...a nice collection.

Our next paper money show to look forward to will be in St. Louis October 27-29 and then FUN in Orlando FL, January 4-7, 1996. Currency Auctions of America will be having an auction at each of these shows as they did at Memphis. At the Memphis Show I was able to obtain some nice high grade Grinnell nationals for my collection. Memphis was a real winner this year, as usual and I, for one, had a great time rubbing elbows with Bill

Brandimore, Larry Falater, Joe Mikolajczyk (Holy Smoke Joe, I still have trouble spelling your name after twenty years)...all three my roommates at Memphis for the last 10-12 years. Also there from Michigan were Pat Barnes, Martin Delger, Al Vonk, John Nammensma, and Doug Murray along with many of my colleagues of the FCCB of which I am the treasurer. Fractional Currency prices keep getting stronger with each auction.

Our PMCM meeting at Memphis was well attended with 35 members and our speaker was Doug Walcutt. He is really educating us on National Currency and he's spent a lot of time and money on researching the National Archives of the BEP.

The "father" of National Bank note research, John Hickman, passed away June 27, 1995. He was a great friend of mine, as with all collectors of Nationals and his <u>Standard Catalog of National Bank Notes</u> with Dean Oakes has given us a great reference book. We will always be indebted to John as he collected the first data on Nationals and was always willing to tell tales of these new friends at any convention he was at. He kept me up late with his story telling a number of times.

My wife and I took our travel trailer and went to Michigan's Upper Peninsula and covered all of it north to south (about 75 miles across) and east to west (250 miles from Sault Ste Marie to Ironwood). We spent the month of July up there and it was a great trip camping in all the State Parks, temperatures 85-90 degrees, and only one day of rain. This has been an extremely hot summer here in Michigan as well as all over the nation. While up there I did manage to get 2 bank notes on mining, 2 stock certificates and 2 tool checks that the miners used. Peace and tranquility are in abundance in the UP along with birds, ducks, and even bears. Hiking to Tahquamenon Falls, the big spring, setting and viewing Lake Superior in the evening and at breakfast times were especially nice to remember. So long for now.

Sincerely, Dr. Wallace Lee, President, PMCM.

50 YEARS AGO IN NUMISMATICS: A complete set of Baraboo, WI Ringling Brothers Scrip from five cents to a dollar was offered by Bebee Stamp & Coin in The Numismatic Scrapbook, July issue for \$1. Not a lot of appreciation there since 1945. His offer of a 1923 \$5 uncirculated Porthole for \$11.50 was a better deal, however.

Ben's Stamp & Coin Company offered a complete set of uncirculated Buffalo Nickels for \$450. Sol Kaplan of Cincinnati, OH offered to sell 1882 Brown Backs, 1902 Nationals and other large paper money for 20% over face, condition good to fine. \$1,000 face value was available.

Barney Bluestone had a full page ad in the August 1945 Scrapbook advertising part IV of the Famous Grinnell collection. Ben's Stamp & Coin offered 500 good to fine 1880 to 1909 Indian Head cents for \$10 post paid, While the Sheraton Coin Company of Boston offered a 1793 Chain Cent, uncirculated, for \$350.

In the September Scrapbook, Thomas Elder explained the symbolism for the Fasces, as utilized on the reverse of our "Mercury" dime series. This bundle of rods enclosing an axe "was carried by Roman officials before the magistrates as a symbol of authority....to punish with the rods or behead with the ax.

These old Scrapbooks are fun to page through. Lots of interesting articles and the ads are fascinating.



### THE ANNUAL CONGRESS of the IBNS Meets October 7th & 8th in London

SPINK will Auction on the 6th October

# THE BERMUDA DECIMAL COLLECTION of Dr. Nelson Page Aspen

### BEP REPORT, MARCH 1995 FW indicates Fort Worth

\$1 FW FW FW	1993	B44 B00 E25 F12 G19 L38 L00	800 000 600 800 200 400 000	001F 001G 001D 001G 001E 001H 001I	B96 B19 E96 F83 G89 L96 L19	000 200 000 200 600 000 200	000F 000G 000D 000G 000E 000H 000I	51,200,000 19,200,000 70,400,000 70,400,000 57,600,000 19,200,000
\$5 FW	1993	B38 G00	400	001A 001A			000A 000A	12,800,000
\$10	1993	D00	000	001A	D70	400	A000	70,400,000
\$20. FW FW	1993	D00 E19 L64 L00	000 200 000 000	001A 001C 001D 001E	D64 E83 L96 L44	000 200 000 800	000A 000C 000A 000E	64,000,000 64,000,000 32,000,000 44,800,000
\$100	1993	C00 D00 G00	000 000 000	001A 001A 001A	C09 D09 G32	600 600 000	A000A A000A A000A	9,600,000 9,600,000 32,000,000
				S	TARS			
\$20FV FW	1993 1988a N1993 1993	G12 L00	600 800 000		L28 G16 L03	000	000* 000* 000*	640,000 1,920,000 2,560,000 1,280,000
				REPORT	_			
\$1	1993	E00 F83 F00	200 000 200 000	001G 001E 001G 001H	B83 E64 F96 F53	3 200 1 000 5 000 L 200	0 000G 0 000E 0 000G 0 000H	64,000,000 64,000,000 12,800,000 51,200,000
FW FW		G89 G00		001E 001F	G5'	5 000 7 400		6,400,000 57,400,000

FW FW	H00 000 L19 200		000 000A 1000 000	32,000,000
\$5 199 FW FW	B51 200 I00 000 J00 000	001A I06	400 000A 400 000A 000 000A	19,200,000 6,400,000 32,000,000
\$10 199	93 A00 000	001A A19	200 000A	19,200,000
\$20 199 FW FW FW	D00 000 E83 200 E00 000 G57 600 L44 800 L00 000	0 001B D32 0 001C E96 0 001D E51 0 001C G70 0 001E L96	000 000A 000 000B 000 000C 200 000D 400 000C 000 000E 800 000F	32,000,000 32,000,000 12,800,000 51,200,000 12,800,000 51,200,000 12,800,000
\$100 199	73 J00 000 K00 000		600 000A 200 000A	9,600,000 19,200,000
		STARS		
\$1 199	93 B06 400	0 001* B09	600 000*	2,560,000
\$20 199	93 E00 000	0 001* E03	200 000*	1,920,000
	В	P REPORT, M	AY 1995	
\$1 199 FW FW FW FW FW FW \$1 199	B00 000 E64 000 F00 000 G57 600 G00 000 H32 000 H00 000 K51 200 L57 600 L00 000	0 001H B44 0 001E E76 0 001A F70 0 001F G96 0 001G G32 0 001A H96 0 001B H06 0 001D K89 0 001I L96 0 001J L70	800 000E 400 000A 000 000F 000 000G 000 000A 400 000B 600 000D 000 000I 400 000J	12,800,000 44,800,000 12,800,000 70,400,000 38,400,000 64,000,000 6,400,000 38,400,000 38,400,000 70,400,000 12,800,000

\$5 FW	1993	B70 B00 E00 F00 K00	400 000 000 000 000	001A 001B 001A 001A 001A	B96 B06 E38 F70 K30	000 400 400 400 400	000A 000B 000A 000A 000A	25,600,000 6,400,000 38,400,000 70,400,000 38,400,000
\$10	1993	C00	000	001A	C44	800	000A	44,800,000
\$20	1993	D32 E51	000	001A 001D	D57 E96	600	000A 000D	25,600,000 44,800,000
FW FW FW		E00 G70 G00 L12	000 400 000 800	001E 001C 001D 001F	E12 G96 G38 L38	800 000 400 400	000E 000C 000D 000F	12,800,000 25,600,000 38,400,000 25,600,000
\$50		D03	200	001A	D25	600	000A	22,400,000
\$100	1993	F16 G32 I03	000 000 200	001A 001A 001A	F80 G44 I09	000 800 600	000A 000A 000A	64,000,000 12,800,000 6,400,000
		103	200	OULA	100	000	00071	0,400,000
		103		REPORT	JUNI		995	0,400,000
\$1	1995 1993 1995	B12 C00 F70	BEP 800 000 400	REPORT 001A 001A 001A	JUNI B83 C70 F96	200 400 000	995 000A 000A 000A	70,400,000 70,400,000 25,600,000
FW FW FW	1993	B12 C00 F70 F00 H06 K89 K00 L70	BEP 800 000 400 600 000 400	REPORT  001A 001A 001A 001B 001B 001D 001E 001J	B83 C70 F96 F44 H89 K96 K57 L96	200 400 000 800 600 000	995 000A 000A 000A 000B 000B 000D 000E 000J	70,400,000 70,400,000 25,600,000 44,800,000 83,200,000 6,400,000 57,600,000 25,600,000
FW FW FW	1993 1995 1993	B12 C00 F70 F00 H06 K89 K00 L70 L00 E38	BEP 800 000 400 000 400 000 400 000 400	REPORT  001A 001A 001A 001B 001B 001D 001E 001J 001K 001A	B83 C70 F96 F44 H89 K96 K57 L96 L57 E76	200 400 000 800 600 000 600 800	995 000A 000A 000A 000B 000B 000D 000E 000J 000K 000A	70,400,000 70,400,000 25,600,000 44,800,000 83,200,000 6,400,000 57,600,000 57,600,000 57,600,000 38,400,000
FW FW FW FW	1993 1995 1993	B12 C00 F70 F00 H06 K89 K00 L70 L00	BEP 800 000 400 000 400 000 400 000	REPORT  001A 001A 001A 001B 001B 001D 001E 001J 001K	JUNI B83 C70 F96 F44 H89 K96 K57 L96 L57	200 400 000 800 600 000 600	995 000A 000A 000A 000B 000B 000D 000E 000J 000K	70,400,000 70,400,000 25,600,000 44,800,000 83,200,000 6,400,000 57,600,000 57,600,000
FW FW FW FW \$5	1993 1995 1993 1993 1995	B12 C00 F70 F00 H06 K89 K00 L70 L00 E38 F00	BEP  800 000 400 000 400 000 400 000 400 000	REPORT  001A 001A 001A 001B 001B 001D 001E 001J 001K 001A 001A	B83 C70 F96 F44 H89 K96 K57 L96 L57 E76 F70 K57	200 400 000 800 600 000 600 800 400	995 000A 000A 000A 000B 000B 000D 000E 000J 000K 000A	70,400,000 70,400,000 25,600,000 44,800,000 83,200,000 6,400,000 57,600,000 25,600,000 57,600,000 38,400,000 70,400,000

\$100	1993	A12 H00	800	001A 001A	A51 H16	200	A000 A000	38,400,000 16,000,000
				S	TARS			
\$1	1995	F00	000	001*	F03	200	000*	3,200,000
	1993 1993	E00 H00	000	001* 001*	E03 H03	200 200	000*	1,290,000 640,000
			BEP	REPOR	T, JU	LY 1	995	
\$1	1995	A00 B83 B00 C00 D00 F44 F00	000 200 000 000 000 800 000	001A 001A 001B 001A 001A 001B 001C	A25 B96 B51 C64 D51 F96 F19	600 000 200 000 200 000 200	000A 000A 000B 000A 000A 000B 000C	25,600,000 12,800,000 51,200,000 64,000,000 51,200,000 51,200,000
FW FW FW	1993 1995	H89 H00 K57 L57 L00	600 000 600 600 000	001B 001C 001E 001K 001A	H96 H25 K96 L89 L44	000 600 000 600 800	000B 000C 000E 000K 000A	6,400,000 25,600,000 38,400,000 32,000,000 44,800,000
·	1995 1993	E00 F70 F00 L00	000 400 000 000	001A 001A 001B 001A	E32 F96 F12 L64	000 000 800 000	000A 000A 000B 000A	32,000,000 25,600,000 12,800,000 64,000,000
	1993	A64 A00 F76 F00 J57 J00 L51	000 000 800 000 600 000 200	001A 001B 001B 001C 001A 001B	A96 A32 F96 F44 J96 J06 L96	000 000 000 800 000 400 000	000A 000B 000B 000C 000A 000B 000G	32,000,000 32,000,000 19,200,000 44,800,000 38,400,000 6,400,000
FW	1993	L00 K19	000	001H 001A	L25 K48	600	000H 000A	25,600,000

#### STARS

\$1 FW	1993		001*		000*	640,000 3,200,000
\$20	1993		001* 001*		000*	2,176,000

#### FREE CLASSIFIED ADS

Wanted: One Pak 1976 \$2 JA, Pay \$225. WANTED: \$1 1957B SC \*A Ch CU or better. WANTED: \$1 1957 SC, 1 each, MA-ZA-RA-BB CH CU. Phil Pollard, PO Box 922, Tracy, CA 95378. PMCM #2294.

WANTED: Crisp Unc \$1 notes 1928 to 1993 with the Serial Number ending in 25. I will pay \$50 each for 88-A IA Fort Worth and Web Press notes BL-F\*-FL-GP. Only Crisp Unc and S/N ending with 25. Allen Camacho, PO Box 716, Glendora, CA 91740-0716.

25th ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL Catalog. Extremely extensive offering of Low and Special S/N's. Plus, Many unusual and rare Currency or Sets seldon available. Full page of Errors. Much More! Please send \$3. Graeme M. Ton, Jr., 203 47th Street, Gulfport, MS 39507. PMCM # 1593.

NEW ADDRESS FOR PERIODIC PRICE LISTS: U.S. CURRENCY, CSA, OSOLETES, STOCKS, FRN, MPC, JIM, GUERILLA, WORLD, NOTGELD, COINS, CHITS, STAMPS, ETC. 55 cents SASE Appreciated. 702-753-2435. Hoffman, BOX 6039-M, ELKO, NEVADA 89802-6039.

KRAUSE's Wisconsin Obsoletes Book, Never Used. \$34. Rulau's new 1700-1900 U.S. Tokens book, never used, \$41. (POB's add \$3 or \$4.50 for both) Will sell other paper money books. George Springer, 2427 Ninth St., SW, Canton, OH 49710. PMCM # 2094.

#### FEATURE ARTICLE

### VARIETIES OF NATIONAL BANK NOTES -- PART THREE by Doug Walcutt

c 1995-Doug Walcutt

#### CHARTER NUMBERS ON NATIONAL BANK NOTES

On June 20, 1874 the President approved an Act amending the National Currency Act of June 3, 1864. Section 5 of the amending Act stated:

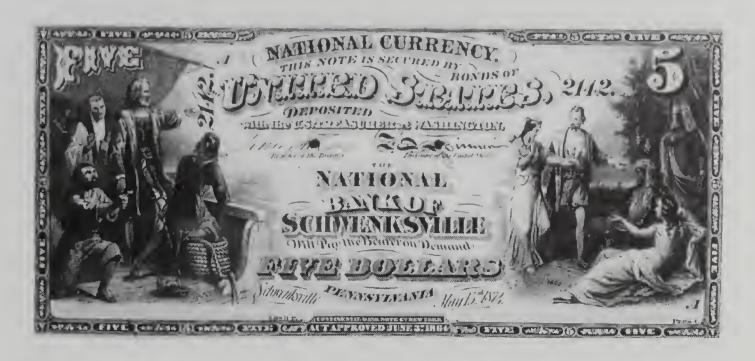
That the comptroller of the Currency shall, under such rules and regulations as the Secretary of the Treasury may prescribe, cause the charter-numbers of the association to be printed upon all national bank notes which may be hereafter issued by him.

At the time of the act's passage, the Comptroller already had a supply of yet undelivered notes for many banks on hand. Before any of these Original Series sheets of notes could be shipped to the appropriate banks, they had to comply with the Act's requirement to have the charter number overprints added. At that time, there were actually some undelivered sheets in the Comptroller's stock that had been printed as early as 1865. Also note that the Comptroller did not finally deliver some of these overprinted Original Series notes to the respective banks until the 1880's.

Section 3 of the amending Act further required that the Treasurer of the United States assume the task of redeeming worn and mutilated national bank notes. The addition of charter numbers to the notes was most likely intended to help facilitate the sorting process during redemption.

#### BLACK CHARTER NUMBERS

Prior to the Act of June 20, 1874, in an experiment that apparently began in late 1873, bank charter numbers were <u>engraved</u> on some \$5 face plates. When the note faces were printed, the



1. An Original Series Black Charter Number variety proof, from Charter 2142. This was apparently the last plate with an engraved charter number. (Photo Courtesy of the Smithsonion Institution Numismatic Collection)



2. A Series of 1875 note from Charter 2137, with Black Charter Numbers. When needed, the Black Charter plates were converted to this series and these issues continued. (Photo courtesy of Ray Waltz.

charter numbers appeared in black in two places. This procedure was done primarily on the plates of new banks chartered at the time. These \$5 notes bear plate dates between Nov. 15, 1873 and May 15, 1874 and are from most banks with charter numbers from 2129 to 2142. In addition, black charter numbers appear on notes from Charter 1644 and Charter 1830. Charter 1644, "The First National Bank of Houston, TX," apparently did not order \$5 notes until this time, while Charter 1830 changed title from "The First National Bank of Saint Anthony, MN" to "The Merchants National Bank of Minneapolis, MN" on January 8, 1874, and a new \$5 plate was apparently made with the new title.

The first deliveries to the Comptroller for banks

that issued black charter number notes began on December 1, 1873 for Charter 2130, "The First National Bank of Red Oak, IA" followed on January 16, 1874 for Charter 2129, "The First National Bank of Central City, Colorado Territory."

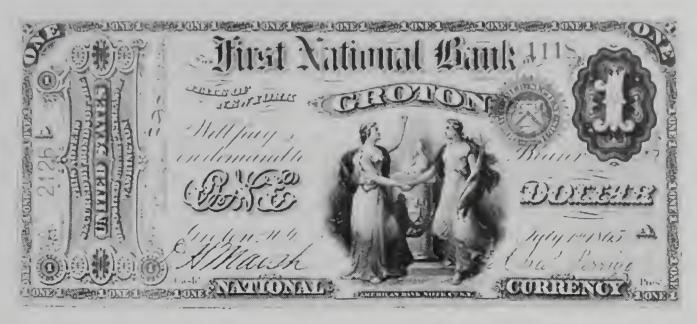
The first delivery for Charter 2142, "The National Bank of Schwenksville, PA" was on May 9, 1874. I find it quite odd that the plate date is May 15, 1874 on these \$5 notes for Charter 2142 and Charter 2141, "The National Bank of Pontiac, IL." The first sheets for Charter 2141 were received by the Comptroller on May 6, 1874, also several days before the date on the notes. The first deliveries for all other banks, known or suspected to have issued these black charter notes, were between these January and May dates.

When the Bureau converted these plates to the Series of 1875 issue, the engraved charter numbers remained. Most of the known black charter number

notes are from the series of 1875 issue.

#### THE BEGINNING OF CHARTER NUMBER OVERPRINTS

When I started writing on early varieties of national bank notes, during the Fall of 1994, my main objective was to describe the vignette varieties found on \$5 First Charter notes, indicating which banks issued the different varieties and showing some exceptions. This was a



An Orig. Series \$1 note of Charter 1083, delivered to the Comptroller in March 1866, with Treas. seal rather high, as on all \$1 notes printed before early May 1874. The note bears Treas. serial numb. A 2126, with large spaces between the prefix letter and numerals. Orig. Series 1-1-1-2 sheets were the second plate combination to bear prefix letters on the Treasury serial numbers for all federal issues.



4. A \$1 note from Charter 1592, with the right charter overprint very high and the Treasury seal low. I believe the charter number overprints were already on the sheets. (Photo courtesy of Frank Bennett)

topic that had never been previously addressed. I also wrote a very short introduction describing the basic features found on these early notes to help understand these varieties.

Then, in early 1995, I decided to provide more information about basics and features found on early national bank issues. Initially, I wrote a few paragraphs about the addition of charter numbers, including the **black charter number** variety. By March 1995, I had decided to do a little more research on the **black charter** issues, to include checking the first delivery dates of these notes to the Comptroller, in his ledgers of Treasury serial numbers.

At the time, I was already aware that, for several years of the earliest deliveries of Original Series notes, bank charter numbers were not recorded in these ledgers for any plate combination, but by the end of the Original Series deliveries in 1875, the bank charter numbers were also entered along the left edge of the ledger pages. I then also decided to find out where and when the charter number entries began, which led to the following discovery.

Somewhat to my surprise, all the ledger entries for all plate combinations without charter numbers, fell before May 13, 1874, and with charter numbers after May 12, 1874, over one month prior to the passage of the Act of June 20, 1874, which required charter numbers on notes. I then concluded that, since the charter numbers were recorded in the ledgers of notes delivered to the Comptroller (by Treasury serial number), the charter numbers must have been on these notes or they would not have been entered there.

There were ledger entries on May 12, 1874 for the 1-1-1-2, the 20-20-20-50, the 50-100, and the 100-100 sheet combinations, all without charter number notations. All twenty-five entries for the 5-5-5-5 sheet combination on May 13, 1874 had the charter numbers listed. The preceding two deliveries for this combination were on May 9, 1874, and did not

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5.(left) Page 207 of the Compt. "Nat. Curr. Reg." shows receipts of 1-1-1-2 sheets, by Treas. serial #'s, during parts of May and June 1874. Note on 5/14/74, 4th line down along the left of the page, the chart. #'s begin to be penned in. The Wickford, RI, note illus. here is from the preceding delivery on 5/12. Also, recorded (with chart. #'s) for the Martinsburg, WV \$1 note (Illus.in Hickman & Oakes). 6.(below) A \$2 note of Char. # 2143, delivered to the Comp. 6/2/1874 with the right overprint high and a low Treasury seal, bearing Treas. Ser. # D888638. (Photo courtesy W. Brandimore)





7. \$2 note of Chart. 16 with Treas. ser. # D638273, with a high Treas. seal. The chart. #'s were added later, after the Act of 6/20/1874. The right char. overprint was placed below the high Treas. seal.

list the charter numbers in the ledger. Coincidentally, these two deliveries were the first with an "N" prefix letter on the Treasury serial number. The second of these deliveries was for Charter 2142, Schwenksville, PA, from a black charter number plate.

The first delivery had been for "The Pomeroy National Bank, Pomeroy, OH," Charter 1980 (bank serials 2001-3000). These sheets may have been received by the Comptroller without charter numbers. If any of these sheets were shipped to the bank before passage of the Act of June 20, 1874, they could have been the only \$5 Original Series notes from the "N" block without charter numbers.

The first deliveries with charter numbers listed in the ledger for the 1-1-1-2 combination were on May 14, 1874. On May 15, 1874, there were deliveries with charter numbers listed in the ledgers for the 20-20-20-50 and 50-100 sheet combinations.

#### HIGH AND LOW CHARTER NUMBERS AND TREASURY SEALS

I also recalled that, through the years, I had seen some \$1 and \$2 Original Series notes with the charter number on the right side of the note printed above the Treasury seal, in addition to the usual variety with the Treasury seal high and the charter number overprint below. Up until this time, I had not paid much attention to, or recorded any notes bearing these varieties.

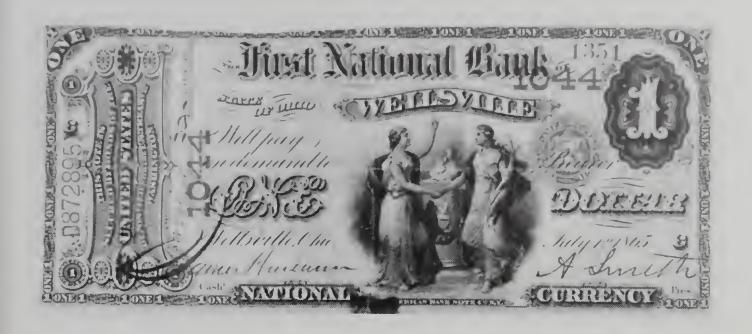
I then searched and found pictures of a few interesting \$1 and \$2 notes with charter numbers above the Treasury seal. One note was an Original Series \$1 note from "The Peoples National Bank of Martinsburg, WV," Charter 2144, illustrated on page 20 in The Standard Catalog of National Bank Notes, 1st and 2nd editions, by Hickman and Oakes. This note was in a delivery to the Comptroller's office on May 27, 1874. Another note was an Original Series \$2 note from "The First National Bank of Hancock, MI," Charter 2143, from a delivery to the Comptroller on June 2, 1874.

Then in late April 1995, a \$1 note from "The Wickford National Bank, Wickford, RI," Charter 1592, surfaced with the overprint above a low seal. This note was in a delivery to the Comptroller's office on May 12, 1874, which was the last delivery in the Comptroller's ledger that did not show the bank's charter number entered along the left edge

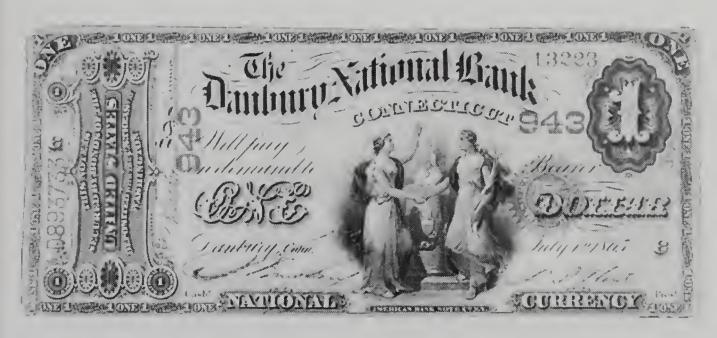
of the ledger page -- another big surprise.

On all earlier \$1 and \$2 notes printed without charter numbers, the Treasury seal is rather high, with not enough room for the charter number overprint to be placed above the seal. On these three notes previously mentioned, notice the Treasury seal is much lower, indicating to me, that the seal was printed lower so the charter number would fit above it, and proving that when these notes were first delivered to the Comptroller's office, the charter number overprints were already there. This confirmed that notes with "red" overprints were delivered to the Comptroller well before the passage of the Act of June 20, 1874 -- a fact previously unknown to researchers. In some discussions with others in early April 1995, we basically agreed that the "red" charter number overprints probably began when they were first listed in the Comptroller's ledgers (May 13, 1874), but then the Wickford, RI, note showed they began even a little earlier.

I felt I had been very lucky to have found and observed several interesting and key \$1 and \$2 notes of this high charter number overprint variety in such a short time. Then, I was surprised once again in June 1995, when I came across a \$1 note from "The Danbury National Bank, Danbury, CT," Charter 943. This note, part of a delivery to the Comptroller on June 5, 1874, bears the charter number above the seal, but in a much lower position, in sort of an open space about where the high Treasury seals had appeared on other \$1 notes. The Treasury seal on this note is very low, well under the charter number overprint. This layout indicates to me, that the Bureau was experimenting



8. A \$1 note of Charter 1044, delivered to the Comptroller 5/15/1874, also with the overprint very high, although both charter numbers are more to the left.



9. A \$1 note from Charter 943 delivered to the Comptroller on June 5, 1874. The right overprint is much lower, but still above an even lower Treasury seal. (Photo courtesy of Joseph Franklin O'Brien)



10. A \$1 note of Charter 2173, delivered to the Comptr. on 9/19/1874, with the charter overprint below an again higher Treasury seal. ( Photo courtesy of Currency Auctions of America, Inc.)



11. A \$1 note of Charter 402, with plain red Treasury serial number: 359492, and bank serial number: 861. This note was originally delivered to the Comptroller on June 19, 1865. The Treasury seal was already printed quite high, so the charter overprint had to be placed under the seal.

to find a good location for these charter number placements on the \$1 notes.

As mentioned previously, when the Act of June 20, 1874 was passed, there were also sheets of notes in the Comptroller's stock not yet delivered to many banks. After the act was passed, these sheets had to have the charter number overprints added. On these \$1 and \$2 issues, the right-hand charter number had to be placed under the Treasury seals, which were already printed very high on the notes. Apparently, before too long it was decided that this was a more desirable layout of seals and charter numbers and subsequently all \$1 and \$2 notes had the right-hand charter numbers overprinted below an again higher Treasury seal.

The earliest notes I have found with a charter number overprint added later, are Original Series \$1 notes from Charter 402, "The First National Bank of Portchester, NY." One example bears a red Treasury serial number: 359492, and bank serial number: 861. This note was part of a delivery to the Comptroller on June 19, 1865. Apparently, the sheet containing this note was still in the Comptroller's stock when the Act of June 20, 1974 was passed. The charter number overprint had to be added before the sheets could be shipped to the bank. Notice, on these sheets, the Treasury seal was already printed quite high and the right charter number overprint would not have fit above the seal, so it was placed under the seal. This bank received only 2,000 1-1-1-2 sheets of Original Series notes. The first 1,000 sheets were delivered to the Comptroller on June 19, 1865, while the second 1,000 sheets were delivered June 20, 1865. There are at least two notes known from each delivery, all with the charter number overprint.

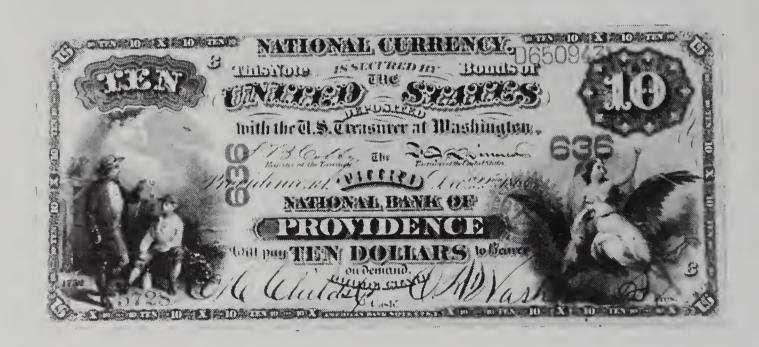
On the \$5 notes, the right-hand charter number fit conveniently to the upper right of the Treasury seal it its original position, so there is nothing unusual seen here. The earliest \$5 note I have observed with an added charter number overprint is





12. An Orig. \$5 note of Chart. 2154, with a plate date of 6/25/1874, (just after the Act of 6/20/1874), and a \$5 note from Chart. 29, with Treas. seal number: K630422), delivered to the Compt. on 11/23/1872. Chart. # overprints. had been added later and fit conveniently in the design.

13. A \$10 note of Charter 636, delivered to the Comptroller 7/13/1875. Note the Treasury seal is quite low.



from Charter 29, "The First National Bank of the City of New York, NY." This note was part of a 1,000 sheet delivery to the Comptroller on November 23, 1872, including bank serials 10751 to 11750. The note illustrated, from sheet 11611, was delivered to the bank as part of a seven sheet delivery sometime between May 1875 and May 1878. On August 1, 1879, the Comptroller finally shipped the last three sheets from this 1,000 sheet run to the bank, along with 2,247 Series of 1875 \$5 sheets.

I have also noticed, on late Original Series \$10 and \$20 notes with charter numbers, that the Treasury seal is much lower than on similar earlier notes. On the \$20 notes illustrated in Part Two of this series, notice the Treasury seal is guite low on the Charter 290 note (delivered to the comptroller on March 13, 1875), and also low on the Charter 1 note (delivered to the Comptroller on June 5, 1874). This Charter 1 note was in the second delivery for the 20-20-50-100 plate combination, where the bank's charter number was listed in the Comptroller's ledger. I believe the charter numbers were already on the sheets in this delivery. Also notice, the Treasury seals are quite high on the early \$10 notes illustrated in Part Two and on the \$100 note from Williamsport, PA, part of a delivery to the Comptroller on April 8, 1874, just before charter numbers were added. I do not know of any significant variety of charter number placement on any other denomination.

#### WIDE AND NARROW CHARTER NUMBER OVERPRINTS

Apparently, around the beginning of 1881, a new charter number overprint press was introduced, or at least a new set of charter number digit type was used for these overprints. The difference is most obvious on the numeral "4," while there are small differences on most of the other numerals, sometimes in the serif. Also, the inside borders on the numerals "0, 3 and 8" are more square in the later narrow variety. The numerals "6" and "9" seem to bear the least difference, however all the



14. The upper right portions of the eight Series of 1875 \$5 notes, showing the charter number overprints and the Treasury serial numbers. Here are three pairs of notes from the same banks with each variety and two notes where you can compare the "2's" and the "5's." Notice the large difference in the "4's." While several digits are very similar, the digits on the second variety on the right, are, at least, always slightly narrower. The Charter 414 notes are from Baltimore, MD, the Charter 181 notes are from Springfield, MA, the Charter 1067 notes from New York City and the Charter 524 and 525 notes are from Boston, MA.

15. A Series of 1875 \$5 note from Charter 343, with the wide variety charter number overprint, and a Series of 1875 \$5 note from Charter 1389, with the narrow variety overprint. On these two notes you may compare the "3's" in the charter numbers.





new numerals are at least slightly narrower.

I have estimated the dating of this change through the observation of many \$5 notes over the years. A \$5 Series of 1875 note from Charter 343, "The Havana National Bank of Havana, NY," Treasury serial number K959160), was in a delivery to the Comptroller's office on December 20, 1880 and bears the wide charter number variety. All other notes I have observed with earlier Treasury serial numbers also bear the wide variety. The \$5 note from Charter 1389, "The Continental National Bank of New York, NY," with Treasury serial number N42374), was in a delivery to the Comptroller on January 28, 1881 and bears the narrow charter number variety. Likewise, all later printed \$5 notes observed, bear the narrow variety, as do all issues of later series national bank notes.

#### FEATURE ARTICLE

#### UNITED STATES POSTAGE & FRACTIONAL CURRENCY John & Nancy Wilson

We are interested in all areas of the numismatic hobby, but our overall favorite is paper money. We particularly enjoy collecting and exhibiting United States Postage and Fractional Currency notes, which were issued between 1862 and 1876 in five different issues. The denominations issued were .03, .05, .10, .15, .25, and .50. Not all issues contained all denominations. The "small change" notes contained within the series are fascinating collectibles that are interesting, beautiful, colorful and very historical.

This "paper change" came into existence because of the shortage of specie caused by the Civil War and the banks suspension of specie payment, in December 1862. Both of these circumstances caused everyone to hoard all coinage. The earlier issue of notes were produced by private bank note companies, under the watchful eye of the government. Later issues were produced by the 1st

National Currency Bureau, along with some help from private bank note companies.

The idea of U.S. Postage & Fractional Currency was conceived by Treasurer of the United States, Francis Elias Spinner. He pasted actual postage stamps on treasury paper along with his signature, showed them around the Treasury Department and the

idea was adopted.

Shortly thereafter the Act of July 17, 1862 authorized the First Issue, which was supposed to be composed of actual postage stamps that were to circulate. Unfortunately, the Treasury Department issued small notes with designs that resembled postage stamps. These notes circulated illegally until the Act of March 3, 1863 authorizing the Second Issue which made the First Issue legal.

The First Issue is referred to as "postage currency" and the other four issues as "fractional currency." The earlier issues contain no Treasury Seals or officials' signatures and the Third through Fifth Issues contain "autographed" notes.

We especially like all the famous persons portrayed on U.S. Postage and Fractional notes: Francis E. Spinner, Spencer M. Clark, George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, William T. Sherman, Hiram U.S. Grant (he got rid of Hiram when he went to West Point), William A. Crawford, Samuel Dexter, Edwin M. Stanton, Robert J. Walker, William P. Fessenden and William M. Meridith.

The fascinating Second Issue embodied several technical innovations in the printing of paper money that still exist today, to help deter counterfeiting. The faces and backs were all uniform in size and similar in design. Washington's portrait appeared on all denominations, bronze overprints and surcharges were added, and the notes were printed on spider or membrane paper. This issue is considered a forerunner to our modern currency.

Because First National Currency Superintendent Spencer M. Clark placed his portrait on a .05 Third

Issue note instead Clark, from the Lewis and Clark expedition, a law was passed forbidding a living person from having their portrait placed on any U.S. Government Currency or any other document. However, no one ever said anything about Lincoln, Spinner and other personalities of the time being on paper money while still living. This law is still on the book today.

Fractional is easy to collect and only 23 notes (24 if you include the Spinner type two back) constitute a type set of the five different issues. Because few people have an interest in "fractional", these notes are available in uncirculated condition for reasonable prices. The many different varieties contained within the fractional series makes it a real challenge to get a complete 155 note set of regular issue notes in high grade.

Only one complete set is know to exist and that was sold at auction in January of 1995 by Currency Auctions of America. If you ever complete a 155 piece set you can collect a fractional currency shield, specimen, essay or experimental notes and sheets. Other associated items that are related to fractional that you could collect would include the following: Inverted, error or counterfeit U.S. fractional issues, encased postage stamps, postage currency envelopes, old obsolete notes issued between 1862 and 1870 that were redeemable in postage currency and notes issued in the early 1860's that have actual postage stamps attached (these are excessively rare).

Out of the \$368,720,000 of U.S. Fractional Currency issued between 1862 and 1876 only about \$2,000,000 remains extent today. The two million figure represents less than .54% of the total amount issued. The Congressional Acts of January 14, 1875 and April 17, 1876 authorized the redemption of fractional currency in actual coins. Thus ended a period of time when our government actually issued paper change as money.

Compared with coins, choice U.S. fractional is

very rare and only a small influx of new collectors would dry up the market in no time. Portrayed for this story is a denomination type set of fractional currency notes that have been reduced in size and are black and white in color. U.S. Statutory Code 18, section number 474 and 504 forbid the reproduction of U.S. notes in exact size and in color. They do allow reproduction in black and white for educational purposes, either enlarged to 150% or reduced to 50%.

We highly recommend collecting a denomination set in high grade consisting of five different issues. We also recommend purchasing any full margined Second Issue .50 or Third Issue .50 Justice notes. We consider both of these types excessively hard to find fully margined on face and back.

If you have a desire to collect or specialize in U.S. Postage and Fractional Currency we recommend joining the Fractional Currency Collectors Board (FCCB). The name is derived from the initials of F.C. C. Boyd, who was a prolific collector fractional currency. You may request application from Membership Chairman Brandimore (editor's note...that's me) 1009 Nina, Wausau, WI 54403. The first years dues are \$22 which includes a large amount of Fractional reference material. Thereafter, dues are \$12 per year. The annual meeting is held in conjunction with the International Paper Money convention in Memphis, TN every June.

We hope you enjoy this story and if it generates an interest for you in U.S. Postage and Fractional Currency we suggest the below listed references. And always remember to buy the book before the note (or coin). The Encyclopedia of U.S. Fractional & Postage Currency by Milton Friedberg, 1978 (the authoritative reference); Paper Money of the U.S. by Robert Friedberg, 13th Edition, 1992; The Comprehensive Catalog of U.S. Paper Money by Gene Hessler, 5th Edition, 1992; U.S. Postage & Fractional Currency by Chester L. Krause and Art Christoph, Reprinted from Numismatic News in 1958;

The Standard Catalog of U.S. Paper Money by Chester L. Krause and Robert F. Lemke, 12th Edition, 1993 and U.S. Postage and Fractional Currency by John and Nancy Wilson, The Centinel, Volume 28, Number 3, Fall 1980 (Central States Numismatic Society quarterly publication).









Collectors: Send for my free paper money Buying list. Radars, repeaters, and low serial numbers needed. Mike Abramson Currency, PO Box 16690, Duluth, MN 55816, 218-525-3652. PMCM # 2236.

For Sale: National Banks of the U.S.-Their Organization, Management, and Supervision by The National City Bank of NY, 1910. The "How to start a Bank" book. Loads of Info-price \$80 PPD. Frank Clark, PO Box 117060, Carrollton, TX 75011

B0000/D 1985 \$5 to trade for any (0000) start \$5 (1), \$10 (2), \$20 (4). E. J. Wehling, 39-17 Sycamore Dr., Fairlawn, NJ 07410. PMCM #1474.

WANTED To Buy-Trade: Zero start \$1FRN: (88A) BE, BR, BS, BT, BX, CB, EC, EH, FA, FB, FI, FJ, FM, GF, GH, GX, HG, (Fort Worth) FR, GN, IF, IH, II, JD, KG, LG, LN, LT, LU. Ronald Dobbins, 824 Lindendale Ct, Columbus, OH 43204-4116. PMCM# 2211.

WANTED: Upper Peninsula of Michigan Nationals, Obsoletes, Scrip, Checks, Mining Stocks, Etc. Tim A. Larsen, 1111 Wilson Ave., Green Bay, WI 54303.

WANTED: 1988A \$1 WEB Notes, (2) BL, (2) F\*, (2) FL, (2) FX. 1 Each: AG, FU, FM, FN, EI, EK, GP. CU Only. Also 1988A IA/Fort Worth & GG/FW \$1. Need 1981 DA uncut block of 4 FRN's Joe E. Ramos, 1929 Millis St. Montebello, CA 90640-4533. PMCM # 2256.

WANTED: New York: Conn: NATIONAL BANK NOTES Need Many different charter #'s in VF or better. Prefer UNC. Send prices-Charter # to Leon Silverman, 237 Mamaroneck Ave., White Plains, NY, 10605

Wanted: Common Depression Scrip from Michigan, such as City of Hamtramck, Lincoln Park, Mecosta County, Etc. Any Quantity. John R. Stone, 3007 Andrew Ave., Lansing, MI 48906-2515. PMCM# 2284

ATTEND IBNS's London Meeting-October 7&8th and for World Paper--Spink Auction, 6th October. Currency Club of Chester County, PA.

Wanted: \$50 and \$100 Star Notes. Send list and price. Looking for new block traders for any denominations. I collect 33 & 34 endings and all Star Notes. Robert L. Vandevender II, PO Box 4052, Joliet, IL 60434. PMCM # 3089.

For Sale: Michigan Nationals and Obsoletes; Dr. Wallace Lee, 102 Conda Lane, Oxford, MI 48371

WANTED: For my WISCONSIN CITIES Collection: Any note, Large or Small from Sparta, Port Washington, Mondovoi, Lake Geneva, Dale, Hayward, Wautoma, Peshtigo, Princeton, WI. Will buy or trade. W. Brandimore, 1009 Nina, Wausau, WI 54403.

WANTED: OHIO Nationals. Bowling Green, Mendon, Kalida, Leipsic, Pitsburg, Loudonville, Butler, West Liberty, Bradford, Baltimore, Millersburg, Elmore, Buckeye City. Any Scarce Ohio. Lowell Yoder, POB 444, Holland OH 43528. 419-865-5115.

I have some \$1 88A FRN's, FU CU wash. I would like to trade for notes I need in 1988A and 1993 \$1 or \$5. Write with what you have to trade. Do not send any notes. Postage. Wm F. Reulbach Box 361113, Strongsville, OH 44136-0019, Charter PMCM # 195.

Buying my 1955 price lists, Currency books; chase books on confederate, counterfeit, notes. Southern sutlers. Florida notes. Rare southern bonds and stock certificates. Col. Grover Criswell, Box 6000, Salt Springs, FL 32134-6000.

The Currency Club of Chester County recommends you attend the Internmational Bank Note Societies London Meeting, 7-8 October, 1995. N.P. Aspen, 420 Owen Rd., West Chester, PA 19380-4321, PMCM #1228

For Sale: 178 One dollar FRN stars, CU 1963-1985, Approx. 10 each 18 Blocks, value Reference Oakes New Guide, \$595. One set only. Larry Sterling, POB 4098, River Edge, NJ 07661. PMCM# 1942.

Selling Off Extra Notes, LG & SM - L.T., S.C., FRN, Nationals. Priced to break even. Send LSASE w/55cents postage to Richard Wells, PO Box 16325, Chesapeake, VA 23328. PMCM# 3054.

SPMC, etc. Books--New. Minnesota \$14, Vermont \$14, Kansas-Oklahoma-Indian Territory \$13, Wisconsin \$34, Rhode Island \$17, New Jersey \$17. (POB add \$3) 216-456-8519, Other books...George Springer, 2427 Ninth Street, SW, Canton, OH 44710. PMCM# 2094

1993 \$5 B Stars, \$13 each. 1993 \$5 notes to trade. I have AA, BA, BB, CA, EA, FA, HA. Send SASE to trade. A.C.C.S. C/O ED Jackowski, III. 1638 N. Olden Ave., Trenton, NJ 08638. PMCM # 3098.

WANTED: Syracuse, NY Nationals and Obsoletes. ALSO All "STAR" Notes. Seriouis Collector, Describe & Price. Jim Dale, Box 454, Syr. NY 13206-0454. PMCM # 3109.

#### FEDERAL RESERVE NOTE EXCHANGE LIST Chairman: Joseph Mikolaczyk 603 Parchmount Ave. Parchment, MI 49004

This exchange list is open to all paid up PMCM members who would care to help fellow collectors, as well as themselves, exchange current FRN's. If you would like your name added, write to me at the above address. DON'T WRITE TO THE EDITOR as it adds to his work and delays your request. The following PMCM members will exchange current FRN's they have available with other members at face value, plus SASE.

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Don Klein Apt 3G, 136-05 Sanford Av Flushing, NY 11355-3113

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PO Box 8941
Trenton, NJ 08650-0941

District D Cleveland

Andrew Choma R#1, Wabash Ave. Morgan, PA 15064

Robert Jackson (\$1-&-5) 5825 Terrace Pk. Dr. Dayton, OH 45429

Joseph T. Sobeck 245 Roosevelt Ave. McKees Rocks, PA 15136

District E Richmond

Larry W Booth (\$1-2-5) PO Box 12521 Roanoke, VA 24026

District F Atlanta

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Lawrence PO Box 110262 Nashsville, TN 37222-0262

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